

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please cancel the paragraph and heading on page 1, lines 8-11.

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 13-16 with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/468,690, filed December 21, 1999, which is a continuation in part of U.S. application Ser. No. 09/194,374, filed July 25, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,565,815, filed as a national phase stage entry (371) of international application PCT/US98/03962, filed March 2, 1998. This application is also related to U.S. application Ser. No. 09/275,061 filed March 23, 1999 and Ser. No. 09/314,605 filed May 19, 1999. All of these applications are incorporated by reference herein for all purposes.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 12, to page 8, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

The pressurization of the chamber ensures that the flexible major walls of the vessel are forced to **[contact and]** conform to the inner surfaces of the plates, thus guaranteeing optimal thermal contact between the major walls and the plates. In the preferred embodiment, the device for increasing pressure in the chamber comprises a plunger which is inserted into the channel to compress gas in the vessel and thereby increase pressure in the chamber. The plunger preferably has a pressure stroke in the channel sufficient to increase pressure in the chamber to at least 2 psi of above the ambient pressure external to the vessel, and more preferably to a pressure in the range of 8 to 15 psi above the ambient pressure. In **[the]** a preferred embodiment, the length of the pressure stroke is controlled by one or more pressure control grooves formed in the inner surface of the frame that defines the channel. The pressure control grooves extend from the port to a predetermined depth in the channel to allow gas to escape from the channel and thereby prevent pressurization of the chamber until the plunger reaches the predetermined depth. When the plunger reaches the predetermined depth, it establishes a seal with the walls of the channel

and begins the pressure stroke. The pressure control grooves provide for highly controllable pressurization of the chamber and help prevent misalignment of the plunger in the channel.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, lines 13-21 with the following amended paragraph:

In another [a **second**] embodiment of the invention, the pressurization of vessel is performed by a pick-and-place machine having a machine head for addressing the vessel. The machine head has an axial bore for communicating with the channel. The pick-and-place machine also includes a pressure source in fluid communication with the bore for pressurizing the chamber of the vessel through the bore. In this embodiment, the apparatus also preferably includes a disposable adapter for placing the bore in fluid communication with the channel. The adapter is sized to be inserted into the channel such that the adapter establishes a seal with the walls of the channel. The disposable adapter preferably includes a valve (e.g., a check valve) for preventing fluid from escaping from the vessel.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, line 22, to page 9, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

In another [a **third**] embodiment of the invention, the device for increasing pressure in the chamber comprises an elastomeric plug which is inserted into the channel, and a needle inserted through the plug for injecting fluid into the vessel. The needle may be used to inject the reaction mixture into the chamber, followed by air or another suitable gas to increase pressure in the chamber. The reaction vessel may be filled and pressurized in this manner by a human operator, or alternatively, the apparatus may include an automated machine for filling and pressurizing the chamber. In the automated embodiment, the apparatus includes a machine for inserting the needle through the plug, and the machine includes a pressure source for injecting fluid into the vessel through the needle.

In another **[a fourth]** embodiment of the invention, the device for pressurizing the chamber comprises a platen for heat sealing a film or foil to the vessel. The foil is preferably sealed to the portion of the frame defining the port. Heat sealing the film or foil to the vessel seals the port and collapses an end of the channel to reduce the volume of the vessel and thereby increase pressure in the chamber. The reaction vessel may be heat sealed in this manner by a human operator, or alternatively, the apparatus may include an automated machine, e.g. a press, for sealing the vessel.